

Section 705 - Motorcycles

Section 705:169.974. Motorcycles, Motor Scooters and Motor Bikes.

Subd. 1. Definition. Motorcycles as used herein shall mean every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including motor scooters and bicycles with motor attached, but excluding a tractor. Motor scooter means a two or three wheeled motor vehicle of not more than five brake horsepower which has a saddle for the use of the rider. The presence or absence of a bar, or gas tanks, or both, between the handle bars and the saddle does not alter or change this definition of a motor scooter.

Subd. 2. License Requirements. No person shall operate a motorcycle on any street or highway in this municipality unless he has a valid driver's license with a two-wheeled endorsement as provided by law.

No motorcycle operator who is operating by virtue of a two-wheeled vehicle instruction permit shall carry any passenger on the streets and highways of this State on the motorcycle which he is operating unless such passenger has a valid driver's license with a two-wheeled vehicle endorsement.

Subd. 3. Vehicle Equipment.

- (a) No person shall operate any motorcycle equipped with handlebars if any part of such handlebars extends above the shoulders of the operator while seated with both feet on the ground.
- (b) Any motorcycle with a seat designed or suited for use by a passenger shall be equipped with foot rests for the passenger. No person shall operate any motorcycle on the streets and highways unless such motorcycle is equipped with at least one rear view mirror so attached and adjusted as to reflect to the operator a view of the roadway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the motorcycle and is equipped with not less than one horn which shall be audible at a distance of at least 200 feet under normal conditions.
- (c) All other applicable provisions of this Chapter VII. pertaining to motorcycles and other motor vehicle equipment shall apply to motorcycles, except those which by their nature can have no application.

Subd. 4. Equipment for Operators and Passengers.

- (a) When operating a motorcycle on the streets and highways of this municipality, the operator and passenger, if any, shall wear protective headgear that complies with standards established by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

- (b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to persons during their participation in a parade for which parade a permit or other official authorization has been granted by this municipality or other governmental authority.

Subd. 5. Driving Rules.

- (a) An operator of a motorcycle shall ride only upon a permanent and regular seat which is attached to the vehicle for such purpose. No other person shall ride on a motorcycle; except that passengers may ride upon a permanent and regular operator's seat if it is designed for two persons, or upon additional seats attached to the vehicle to the rear of the operator's seat, or in a side car attached to the vehicle; provided however, that the operator of a motorcycle shall not carry passengers in a number in excess of the designed capacity of the motorcycle or side car attached to it. No person shall be carried in a position that will interfere with the operation of the motorcycle or the view of the operator.
- (b) No person shall ride upon any motorcycle as a passenger unless, when sitting astride his seat, he can reach the foot rests with both feet.
- (c) No person except passengers of sidecars or three wheeled motorcycles shall operate or ride upon a motorcycle except while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on either side of the motorcycle.
- (d) No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying packages, bundles, or articles which prevent him from keeping both hands on the handlebars.
- (e) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of moving or stationary vehicles headed in the same direction, nor shall any person drive a motorcycle abreast of or overtake or pass another vehicle within the same traffic lane, except that motorcycles may, with the consent of both drivers, be operated not more than two abreast in a single traffic lane. This clause shall not apply to police officers in the performance of their official duties.
- (f) All motor vehicles including motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane and no motor vehicle shall be driven or operated in such a manner so as to deprive any motorcycle of the full use of a traffic lane.
- (g) Every person operating a motorcycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to a motor vehicle as provided by law, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application.